Mr. SPEAKER.—I shall request the Government to make a statement.

Sri B. P. GANGADHAR.—It is an urgent matter. I want to know the mind of the Government on this issue.

Mr. SPEAKER.—If the hon. member gives a Calling attention Notice, I shall consider it.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 63, (i) re : STRIKE IN THE BENGAL-BIHAR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, BELGAUM.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK (Belgaum).—Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister for Law, Labour and Parliamentary Affairs to the strike in the Bengal Bihar Construction Company in Belgaum.

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY (Minister for Law, Labour and Parliamentary Affairs).—The Hon'ble Member has given notice to call my attention to the strike in the Bengal Bihar Construction Company in Belgaum since 24th December 1969.

M/s. Bengal Bihar Construction Co. (P) Ltd., having their Headquarters at Calcutta have undertaken the Plant Fabrication work of M/s. Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., Belgaum. The work is going on since the middle of 1967 and is likely to be completed within the next 2 to 3 months. They are getting the work done through sub-contractors. There are 8 sub-contractors and about 500 to 600 workers.

The President of the Engineering and Foundry Kamgar Sabha, Belgaum sent a charter of demands on 5th December 1969 to Messrs. Bengal Bihar Construction Company (P) Limited and to the 8 sub-contractors demanding increase in wages, bonus, festival holidays, leave with wages, etc. One of his demands is that all the workmen employed by the sub-contractors should be treated as workmen of the Bengal Bihar Construction Co. Since there was no response from the employers, the workmen numbering about 150 have gone on strike with effect from 24th December 1969.

On 26th December 1969, the Assistant Labour Commissioner Belgaum Division, Hubli, suggested to the President of the Engineering and Foundry Kamgar Sabha, Belgaum, to call off the strike and avail of the conciliation machinery for redressal of grievances. But this suggestion was not acceptable to the President of the Union as the work of the company is to be completed within a short period and he wanted to get the demands conceded through direct action.

(SRI K. PUTTASWAMY)

Therefore, he did not approach either the Labour Officer or the Assistant Labour Commissioner for taking up the demands in conciliation.

However, the Assistant Labour Commissioner fixed a conciliation meeting on 16th January 1970 at 11 A.M. in the office of the Labour Officer, Belgaum, and issued letters to both the parties to attend the meeting. The President of the Union and the representatives of Bengal Bihar Construction Co., Private Ltd., attended the meeting. The demands were discussed and a tentative agreement was drawn up and the representatives of the management wanted to place the same before their Directors for consideration. The next meeting was fixed on 17th January 1970 as they were reported to have been held up in Bombay on account of illness of one of the Directors. The Assistant Labour Commissioner and the Deputy Labour Commissioner, I am informed, are continuing their efforts to bring about a settlement.

Sri B. B. SAYANAK.—The President of this Labour Union is undergoing fast since 18th of this month and there is a tentative agreement between the Union and the Director. What is the progress from 17th January 1970 to 26th January 1970 in this behalf ?

Sri K. PUTTASWAMY.—Sir, practically no progress. Efforts are being made by the Labour Department to persuade the parties to come to an understanding and enter into the agreement.

(ii) *re* : Imposition and collection of fine on localised lands in Tungabhadra Project Area

Sri M. NAGAPPA (Raichur).—Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Chief Minister to the imposition of fine under the Irrigation Act on localised lands in Tungabhadra Project area and recovery of the same by coercive methods.

† Sri VEERENDRA PATIL (Chief Minister).—Sir, penalties have been levied under Section 28 (5) of Mysore Irrigation Act, 1965, on lands which are not localised for irrigation under the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal. There is no question of levying any penalty under Section 28 (5) for lands which have been localised for irrigation. The fine leviable under Section 28 (5) is to be not less than 10 times and not exceeding 30 times the water rate that would otherwise have been payable had permission been obtained for such irrigation. Under Section 28 (3) the water rate leviable for use of water with permision for areas not included under the project is twice the water rate. Therefore, the penalties